

If we continue working at this pace and with this rate of success, this will be the most productive 100 days in the entire history of the U.S. Congress. We are proving Congress can make a difference. This Congress can rise above partisanship. This Congress can do the business of the people.

□ 1020

#### RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the President's initiative to raise the Federal minimum wage. This is an initiative that will benefit millions of American workers throughout the Nation.

The President's proposal for a moderate 90 cent increase in 2 years is needed since workers at the minimum wage level have actually seen their real incomes decrease in the last decades. For example, in 1968, the minimum wage was the equivalent of about \$6.30 per hour in 1994 dollars.

Real wages and the purchasing power of millions of families have become stagnant. We must maintain the incentives that reward hard work. The minimum wage is one such incentive.

When I was Governor of Puerto Rico, I took the bold and unprecedented step of asking the Federal Government to extend minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, where at the time they did not apply. Special interests and many corporations complained and objected to the move. They lobbied hard against it predicting economic havoc and job displacement.

Such bleak scenarios did not materialize. In fact, the minimum wage has been a blessing for the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico. It raised the standard of living of thousands of working class families, took tens of thousands of working families out of welfare and brought added dignity to their daily endeavors at their job sites.

Both sides of the aisle should seek every instrument to promote and assure a decent standard of living for all Americans. The President's move is a wise one, based on solid economic policy and common sense.

I urge our colleagues to support raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over the next 2 years, it is the right thing to do. Millions of hard working Americans who deserve better economic opportunities will appreciate our leadership.

#### WITHDRAW YOUR NOMINATION, DR. FOSTER

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, credibility, credibility, credibility. Here was the story yesterday: The nominee for the Surgeon General of the United States of America advised the White House, the U.S. Senate, that he had performed only one abortion. Within hours he changed his story and gave a written statement that in fact it was less than 12 abortions. Then the pro-life group, some pro-life group came out and said it looked more, based on an excerpt from testimony of this gentleman from years back that it was 700 abortions. That was the story yesterday.

Today, last night or last night's news makes today's story. It was not 1, it was not 12, it is now 39.

The issue is not abortion. The issue is credibility. Where is the credibility of this nominee for Surgeon General? Can he devote the time necessary for rural health and other key issues?

It sound like another story of, "I didn't inhale."

Do yourself a favor, do your country a favor, "Withdraw, your nomination, Dr. Foster."

#### LIVABLE WAGE ACT

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, there has been much talk about reforming welfare; about getting people off the Government dole and on to the pay-rolls.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if we expect people to work, these jobs should at least provide a livable wage.

While it is true that the economy is growing, the deficit is falling and unemployment is declining, many American are still finding it difficult to make ends meet.

The current minimum wage is \$4.25 an hour, or \$8,500 a year. You tell, me, Mr. Speaker, how can one person live off such an income, much less a family?

The President has introduced a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour. I would take that one step further.

I have introduced a bill, H.R. 768, the Livable Wage Act, which would raise the minimum wage to \$5.30 an hour by the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, if we truly want welfare reform let us put the Livable Wage Act into law.

#### VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act. In support, I will cite three statistics. Two-thirds of all violent crimes are committed by 7 percent of criminals; 51 percent of violent criminals are released within 2 years. We have 65 murders a day; 30

percent of all murders are committed by people on probation, parole, or bail. Mr. Speaker, we are abdicating our responsibility to protect society. By passing this act, we provide States with the incentive to keep violent criminals in prison, and we provide the support for them to do so. We cannot expect to deter crime in this country if we do not have serious punishment. This bill makes a real change in how we attack the problem of crime in America. If we cannot do this much to protect society, then we have no business being here.

#### WE NEED MORE COPS ON THE BEAT

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was able to call mayors and police chiefs of over 40 small communities in my district. I told them they would be getting a grant to hire a cop because of last year's crime bill, the Anti-Crime Act of 1994. Some will get two, and one will get even three.

Chief MacDonald, in Townsend, said it would help him and his small town. And in Williamstown, at the other end of my district, Chief Kennedy said he would assign a cop where kids gather and make trouble.

Mr. Speaker, we agreed, Democrats and Republicans, on one thing during last year's crime bill debate: We need more cops on the beat.

So why does the Republican contract cut funds for new police? That is right, the block grant shell game in the Republican contract would cut funds for community policing.

That means less money to help us feel more safe in our neighborhoods, and it kills the chances for small town police chiefs to get the cops that they need.

This is not smart, this is not savings. Wake up, America, "Don't fall for the shell game."

#### IT IS TIME FOR DR. FOSTER TO STEP ASIDE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster, is having a hard time remembering how many babies he has aborted. Last week, he said it was around a dozen. Yesterday, he thought it was more like 39. Now, to some folks who think that abortion is not such a big deal, I guess it would be easy to forget a few unborn babies here and there. But to those of us who put a higher value on human life, Dr. Foster's latest revelations are very disturbing.

It's time for Dr. Foster to step aside. His evolving revelations of the last few days have destroyed his credibility